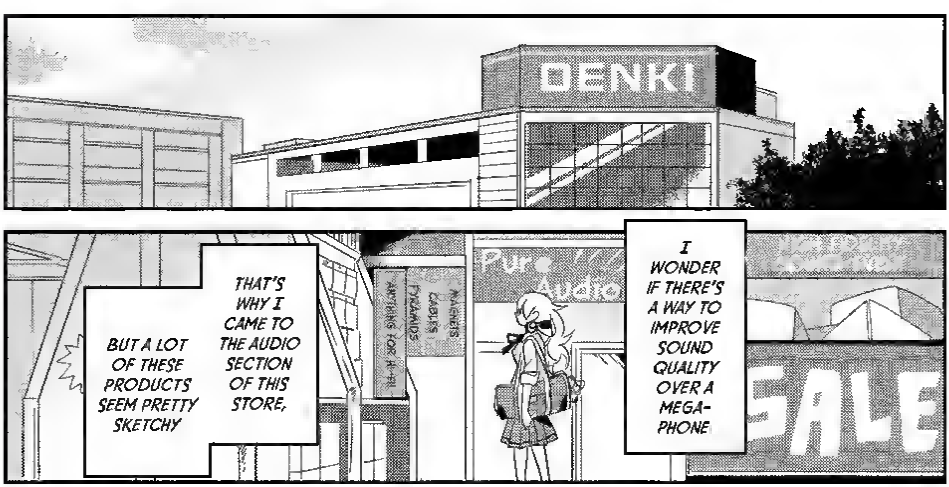
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

CHAPTER 52
SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT SOUND
LIVE IN STORE
TO PROMOTE MY ALBUM, I'M GOING TO PERFORM LIVE AT A RECORD STORE.
IT'LL BE LIKE A SMALL CONCERT!
I THINK IT'S AMAZING THAT WE GET TO TURN A NORMAL STORE INTO A CONCERT HALL
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO PROMOTE THIS ALBUM!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SURE OF YOURSELF. THAT'S A RELIEF.
DOWER Record
YOU SEE, THE MANAGEMENT AT THIS STORE...
...CAN BE DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH
WHY'S THAT?

I ALREADY PROMISED THE STORE
THAT, AS YOU ARE THE MIRACULOUS IDOL ENA TAKAHASHI, YOU WOULD DELIVER A PERFORMANCE CAPABLE OF FILLING AN ENTIRE ARENA
W-WITH JUST A MEGA-PHONE?
AS A RESULT, IT SEEMS THE ONLY STAGING EQUIPMENT THEY'VE PREPARED FOR YOU IS A MEGAPHONE
WHAT?! I'M NOT GIVING A PUBLIC ADDRESS!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT GUTS WILL DO FOR YOU!
DO YOUR BEST!
IT'LL BE FINE, ENA! SOUND QUALITY IS ALL ABOUT GUTS


DENKI
Pure Audio
SALE
BUT A LOT OF THESE PRODUCTS SEEM PRETTY SKETCHY
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO THE AUDIO SECTION OF THIS STORE,
I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO IMPROVE SOUND QUALITY OVER A MEGA-PHONE

I THINK IT'S ONLY HUMAN TO DESIRE A SOUND SYSTEM...
THAT'S A STEP ABOVE THE REST
THAT SOUNDS EXTREME
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
IS IT ONE OF THOSE AUDIO-PHILES?
WAIT...
TO THINK I'D FIND THESE TWO HERE!
IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME TO THE BIG ELECTRONICS STORE CLOSE TO SCHOOL
YOU'RE INTO THIS KIND OF THING, HUH?
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT NARA-KUN'S INTO
IT'S NARA-KUN!
AND MIKAGE-KUN!
I MEAN, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
AT THE END OF THE DAY,
WHAT YOU'RE LISTENING TO DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU USE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE WILL BE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE BASED ON YOUR EQUIPMENT
LIKE?
HMPH...
IT'S STANDARD PRACTICE TO MAKE AUDIO CABLE OUT OF COPPER
OH, I HAVE HEARD THAT COPPER IS GOOD FOR SOUND FIDELITY

HE'S TRYING TO APPEAL TO A DIFFERENT SENSE!
カッポ!!
KA-BLAM
...LIKE THIS AIR FRESHENER, THE SOUND QUALITY WILL IMPROVE!
NOW IF WE ADD SOMETHING WITH THE SAME SMELL...
SUPER EFFECTIVE!

SOUNDS LIKE A HOAX TO ME
CERTAINLY, IT DOES HAVE A COPPERY SMELL
AND THE COPPER FOUND IN THIS PRODUCT
IN-DEED
...REACTS WITH THE IONS IN THE AIR,
CLEARING IT OF IMPURITIES AND CREATING A HIGH FIDELITY SOUND THAT EMPHASIZES THE BASS.
OR SO IT SAYS ON THE BACK.
NARA-KUN IS BEING COMPLETELY DUPED BY THE PACKAGING.

I KNOW, RIGHT?
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO HEAR SUCH SMALL DIFFERENCES IN SOUND QUALITY.
HMM.
I CAN'T REALLY TELL.
HOW'S THAT?
TRY IT OUT WITH MY SOUND PLAYER.
IT'S SWAHILI, MIKAGE!
WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY LISTEN TO, NARA-KUN?
I GUESS IT'S TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO RECOGNIZE THE QUALITY OF THIS MUSIC.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE THOSE TWO THINGS!
IT KIND OF SOUNDS LIKE AN ENGLISH SONG,
BUT IT ALSO KIND OF SOUNDS LIKE A JAPANESE SONG
OH, THIS TIME WE'RE GOING WITH A FAMOUS EXAMPLE.
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS VALVE AMPLIFIER?
HMPH
SOMETHING EVEN AN AMATEUR CAN UNDERSTAND?
FINE, GIVE ME AN EASIER EXAMPLE.

ZEP
WELL AT LEAST THE EYES ARE CLOSER TO THE EARS THAN THE NOSE
IT'S AN EYE MASK FOR IMPROVING SOUND QUALITY.
...SISTER PRODUCT MADE BY THE SAME COMPANY
THIS ONE DEFINITELY WORKS!
WITHOUT YOUR SENSE OF SIGHT, YOU CAN FOCUS MORE ON SOUND
HUH?
IS THAT TRUE?
FWIP
I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE, BUT THIS IS MADE BY A TOP MANUFACTURER I'M SURE IT'S ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL
NOT ONLY DOES AN EYE MASK FEEL GOOD...
...BUT THE CHANGE IN SOUND QUALITY IS SO AMAZING YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!
I WON'T BELIEVE MY EYES, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE COVERED BY THE MASK?
TWITCH
NOT GONNA LET THAT ONE SLIDE, ARE YOU?
TWITCH

I'M SURE LIFE IS FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES FOR YOU
NO, IT WOULD ONLY TAKE TWO BEFORE YOU GIVE IN AND OPEN YOUR EYES
THIRTY SECONDS
CAN'T YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES?
HUMANS ARE WEAK TO TEMPTATION
HMM
I'M AFRAID I JUST DON'T GET IT
SO EVEN AN EYE MASK ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH?
YOUR GREED KNOWS NO BOUNDS
CONSIDER THIS WOOD SPEAKER
DON'T TELL ME! IS HE FINALLY GOING TO TAKE AUDIO INTO CONSIDERATION?
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
THERE'S MORE?
FIRST IT WAS SMELL, THEN SIGHT NOW WHAT?
I GUESS IT'LL BE TASTE

AN ALCOVE MADE OUT OF THE VERY SAME WOOD
NOTHING BUT EFFECTS YET
FEELS SO NICE TO THE TOUCH THAT IT'LL MAKE EVERYTHING SOUND BETTER
THE EARS WILL NEVER GET THEIR TURN!
THWAP
HOW WOULD A NICE FEELING HELP?
ARE YOU SAYING WE SHOULD LISTEN TO MUSIC WHILE TOUCHING THE FLOOR?
RIP RIP RIP
I'M STILL NOT AT A LEVEL TO APPRECIATE THIS YET
WELL, A TRUE AUDIO-PHILE...
HEADPHONES
SPECIAL OFFER

THAT'S A FULL ON GROVEL!
FLING
...LISTENS TO MUSIC WITH THEIR FOREHEAD TOUCHING THE FLOOR
BUT THIS ISN'T SOME RELIGIOUS ACT OR ANYTHING
EVEN IN SPACE, WHICH IS AN EMPTY VACUUM WITH NO SOUND...
...ASTRONAUTS CAN COMMUNICATE BY BRINGING THEIR HELMETS TOGETHER
THEY ENJOY MUSIC BY HAVING IT OSCILLATE THROUGH THEIR ENTIRE BODIES
RUB
RUB
HIS EXAMPLE IS RATHER GRANDIOSE FOR SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS SO RIDICULOUS.

WHAT IS THIS, YOGA?!
THWAP
BASS BOOST POSE
ベースブーストのポーズ
VOCAL BOOST POSE
ボーカルブーストのポーズ
CLASSIC MUSIC POSE
クラシックのポーズ
ANIME SONG POSE
アニメソングのポーズ
SPEAKING OF, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT POSES.
IT'S BEST TO DIVIDE THEM BY TYPE
NOW THEN, WHAT SHALL I BUY.
TO MAKE MY AUDIO SYSTEM A STEP ABOVE THE REST?
MAY WE SUGGEST?
BARGAIN
I THINK I'M GOOD

I MOSTLY LIKE INDIE MUSIC THAT PEOPLE MAKE IN THEIR OWN HOMES.
THE SOUND QUALITY IS ALREADY A MESS.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYTHING?
NOPE
BARGA
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH LISTENING TO THAT ON SOME CHEAP SPEAKERS?
I THINK IT ADDS TO THE FLAVOR
MATCHING THE SPEAKERS TO THE MUSIC...
A SONG WITH FLAVOR?
HMPH
SOME PEOPLE DO FEEL THAT WAY
PERHAPS I SHOULD GET OUT THE PHONO-GRAPH AT MY HOUSE

ENA TAKAHASHI IS DOING A LIVE PERFORMANCE ON A MEGA-PHONE
THIS SOUND... IT'S ALMOST LIKE PUNK ROCK. IT'S SO COOL!
DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE GOOD PUBLICITY FOR MY NEW ALBUM?
NOT AT ALL!
AMAZING, ENA!
I SEE NOW THAT THE KEY WASN'T IMPROVING THE SOUND QUALITY,
BUT RATHER FINDING A SOUND TO COMPLEMENT THE MEGA-PHONE FOR A STAR PER-FORMANCE
BUT IT DID MAKE THE MEGA-PHONE A BIG HIT WITH AUDIO-PHILES AT THIS STORE
THE STORE MANAGER IS SO GRATE-FUL FOR ALL THE SALES THAT HE'S CRYING!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THAT WASN'T MY GOAL, BUT OH WELL!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 052

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

高橋さんが聞いている。, Vol 6 ©201S Yu Hokuo/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
First published in Japan in 2015 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
Translation ©2015 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.